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United Nations

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

General Assembly
Official Records • Forty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 48 (A/47/48)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the 76th plenary meeting of its forty-sixth session, on 17 December 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995".

2. At its 84th plenary meeting, on 13 April 1992, the General Assembly adopted decision 46/472, by which it decided: (a) to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, consisting of the members of the General Committee and open to the participation of all Member States; and (b) to entrust the Preparatory Committee with the task of considering and recommending to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session proposals for suitable activities in connection with the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, on the understanding that its decisions would be taken by consensus.

II. FIRST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

3. The Preparatory Committee met for the first time on 22 October 1992 to elect its officers, consider statements by representatives of Member States and organize its work. The Committee had before it for information a document regarding the commemoration of previous anniversaries (A/AC.240/1992/1). The agenda (A/AC.240/1992/L.1) was adopted without a vote.

4. Mr. Richard Butler, AM (Australia), was elected by acclamation Chairman of the Bureau. Other officers were also elected by acclamation as follows: Mr. Juan Somavia (Chile), Mr. Razali Ismail (Malaysia), Mr. Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby (Oman) and Mr. Zbigniew Wlosowicz (Poland), Vice-Chairmen; and Dr. Lucille Mathurin Mair (Jamaica), Rapporteur.

5. In his statement, the Secretary-General emphasized the need for reform of the Organization in connection with the fiftieth anniversary and highlighted the vital role of the public, the media, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in the commemoration. The subsequent speeches by representatives supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General and reflected the great importance that Member States attached to the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary.

III. SECOND MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

6. The Preparatory Committee held its second meeting on 30 November 1992 to elect the remaining officers of the Bureau, to consider programmes, activities and other matters in connection with the fiftieth anniversary and to organize its programme of work. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the observance of the fiftieth anniversary (A/AC.240/1992/L.2), which summarized the proceedings of its first meeting, outlined actions taken in respect of the fiftieth anniversary and raised various matters relating to the commemoration. The agenda for the meeting (A/AC.240/1992/L.3) was adopted without a vote.

7. The Committee elected by acclamation the remaining officers of the Bureau as follows: Mr. Legwaila Joseph Legwaila (Botswana), Mr. Slavi Pahovsky (Bulgaria), Mr. Wilhelm Breitenstein (Finland) and Mr. M. Mohamedou Ould Mohamed Mahmoud (Mauritania), Vice-Chairmen.

8. In considering various programmes and activities in connection with the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, the Preparatory Committee agreed that as well as the recommendations included in the note by the Secretariat, additional recommendations would be examined at future meetings.

9. Statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: Austria, Niger, Republic of Korea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Finland, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Oman, Venezuela, Tunisia, Slovenia, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Mauritania, Jordan, Togo, Algeria and France.

10. At the conclusion of the Committee's substantive discussion, the Chairman noted the clear emphasis that had been placed on the importance of the Committee's work in the process of reshaping the United Nations. Moreover, the various programmes and activities proposed would enable the Committee to select those most likely to contribute to achieving the objectives of the anniversary. The establishment of national committees would further assist in meeting those objectives. He concluded by recommending that the Committee take note of the note by the Secretariat. It was so decided.

11. In order to enable the Preparatory Committee to meet the requirements of the programme of work for 1993, the Chairman, in consultation with the Secretariat, introduced a draft decision (see para. 14) for consideration by the Committee. The draft decision was subsequently adopted by the Committee without a vote.

12. The Chairman stated that should the General Assembly adopt the draft decision, it was anticipated that 12 meetings of the Preparatory Committee would be scheduled in New York during 1993. The scheduling of those meetings would be arranged in consultation with the Office of Conference Services to ensure that the related requirements could be absorbed from existing conference-servicing capacity. It was not anticipated, therefore, that the adoption of the draft decision would have programme budget implications.

13. The Chairman stated further that following action on the report of the Preparatory Committee by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session he would, in consultation with the Bureau, develop and circulate a draft programme of work of the Committee for 1993.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

14. The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision, as considered by the Preparatory Committee at its second meeting, on 30 November 1992:

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary in 1992,

Decides that the Preparatory Committee should continue its work and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

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